ATLAS
HUMAN TORCH
HUMAN TORCH...MAN OF FLAME
AUG.
10¢
HUMAN TORCH
NO. 38
EXP

THE HUMAN TORCH

IT LOOKED LIKE JUST ANOTHER DAY AS THE MORNING SUN FLOODED THE EARTH WITH GOLD... BUT SUDDENLY THE TREES AND FLOWERS SHRIVELED UP...

AUTOMOBILES AND TRAINS COUGHED AND SPUTTERED TO A STANDSTILL...

AIRPLANES DROPPED OUT OF THE SKY LIKE WOUNDED BIRDS...

PEOPLE GASPED FOR AIR IN ALL THE LARGE CITIES, IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES...

EVEN *THE HUMAN TORCH* AND I WERE MADE HELPLESS, AS SOME MYSTERIOUS POWER SLOWLY STOLE THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND PLOTTED AN AMAZING SCHEME FOR...

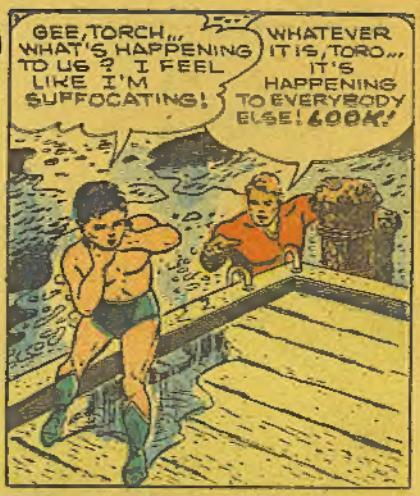
THE WORLD'S END

GREAT BLAZES, TORCH! WE'RE FALLING! WE'VE LOST OUR POWER TO STAY UP IN THE AIR!

AND OUR FLAME IS GOING OUT, TORO! JUST AS IF THERE IS HARDLY ANY AIR LEFT IN THE WORLD!

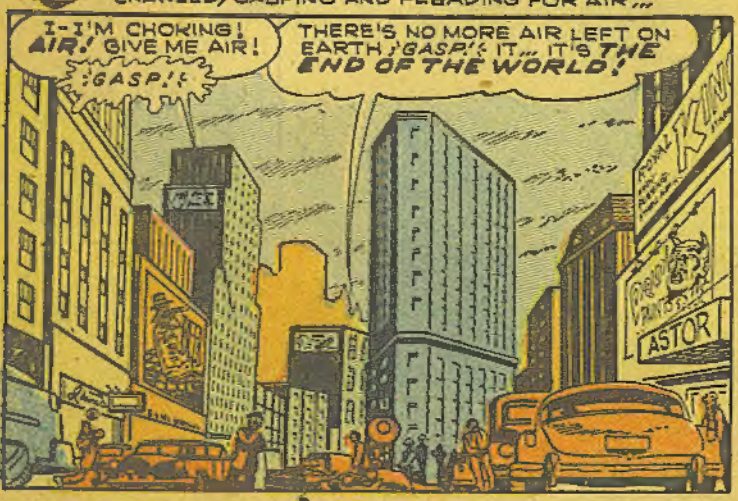
AYERS

E-584

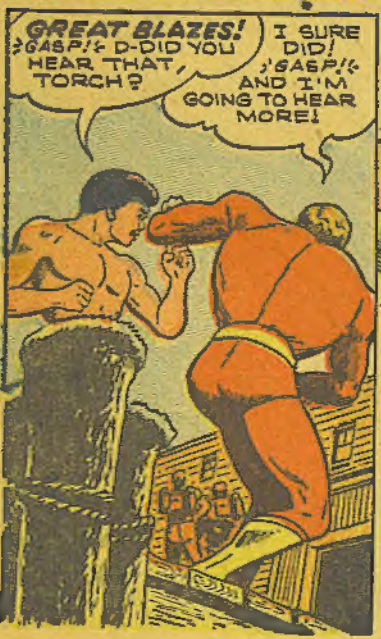


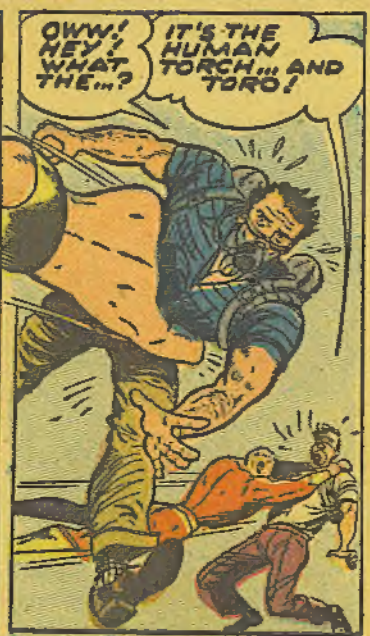
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SHOCKING PANORAMA OF A METROPOLIS HALF PARALYZED AND HALF DEAD! ALL THE TAXICABS, BUSES AND CARS ON THE CROWDED STREETS OF *NEW CITY* WERE MOTIONLESS! ONLY THE PEOPLE MOVED, BUT THEY STAGGERED AND CRAWLED, GASPING AND PLEADING FOR AIR...

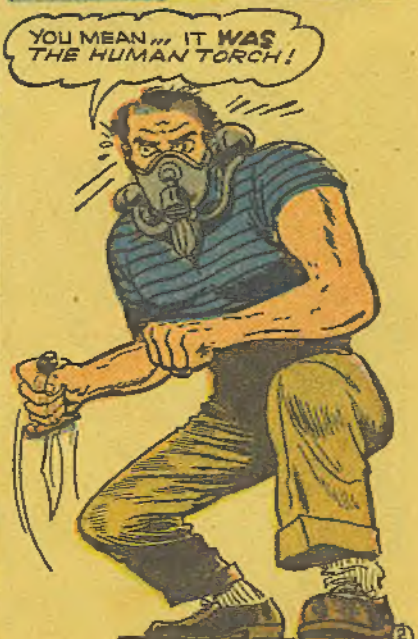
- EVERYONE BEGGED FOR AIR, EXCEPT TWO MEN WHO WORE OXYGEN MASKS AND PORTABLE TANKS! THEY WATCHED THE SCENE OF GREAT SUFFERING WITH SATISFACTION...



FOR THEM IT IS THE END! FOR *US* IT WILL BE THE BEGINNING!
BUT WHY IS THE PROFESSOR DOING IT SO SLOWLY? WHY DOESN'T HE GET IT OVER WITH QUICKLY?







THIS IS THE ONLY THING AROUND THAT I CAN USE FOR A WEAPON!
BUT THEN IT'S ANY PUNK IN A PINCH!
NOW WE'LL TAKE THE STICKER ... AND THE OXYGEN MASKS!
NO! NO! WE ... WE WILL! GASP! DIE WITHOUT THEM!
NOT IF YOU TELL US WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE... SO WE CAN STOP HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
PROFESSOR MARKO! HE'S ON TOP OF KINGDOM MOUNTAIN! BUT IT IS TOO LATE!
HEY! DON'T PUNCH HOLES IN THOSE OXYGEN TANKS!
WE NEED AIR TO FLAME UP AND FLY! WITH THESE PERFORATED TANKS TIED TO OUR BACKS AND LEAKING AIR OVER OUR BODIES, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PAY THE PROF A VISIT!
FLAME ON!
GREAT BLAZES, TORCH! IT WORKS!
LEAVING A WAKE OF FIRE BEHIND US, THE TORCH AND I FLAMED ACROSS THE SKY... AND SECONDS LATER, WE WERE OVER KINGDOM MOUNTAIN...
THERE IT IS, TORCH ... AND IT LOOKS LIKE A PRESSURIZED OBSERVATORY!
AND LOOK WHAT'S STICKING OUT OF IT... A GIANT VACUUM THAT'S SUCKING IN ALL THE EARTH'S AIR! LET'S CRASH THRU THE DOME!
I-I CAN'T, TORCH! MY OXYGEN'S ALL GONE! MY FLAME'S OUT... AND I'M FALLING!
FLAMING FIREBALLS! SO AM I!

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED? WE'VE STOPPED FALLING!
BUT SOMETHING IS PULLING US!
GREAT BLAZES, TORCH! IT'S THE PROFESSOR'S VACUUM!
AND IT'S DRAGGING US INTO IT!
WITH A SLURP-SLURP, THE GAPING MOUTH OF THE GIANT VACUUM SWALLOWED US ... AND WE WERE LOST IN A WHIRLING DARKNESS ...
I HOPE WE DON'T END UP IN A TRASH CAN!
SECONDS LATER, WE WERE DUMPED OUT OF THE TUBE ON TO THE FLOOR OF THE DOMED OBSERVATORY.
YOU ARE INSANE, PROFESSOR MARKO, FOR BRINGING THOSE TWO IN HERE! THAT'S THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO!
I KNOW, GORODOK! BUT THEY ARE HELPLESS! I SAW THEM LOSE THEIR POWER OF FLAME AND FLIGHT OUT THERE!
NOW WATCH US REGAIN IT, PROFESSOR ... BECAUSE THERE'S AIR IN HERE!
FLAME ON!
SHOOT THEM DOWN!
AH, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TASTED BULLETS LIKE THAT! IMPORTED, NO DOUBT!
BLAM!
BLAM!
I'LL TAKE THAT GUN ... WITH MY FLAME-BRAIDED LASSO!
OW!
HERE'S A FAVORITE TRICK OF MINE ... FLAME DAGGERS!
AND HERE'S ONE THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS ... WATER!
CLUB
IN CASE OF FIRE
4

THE BLAST OF WATER SPUTTERED INTO US AND OUR FLAMES TURNED FROM RED-HOT TO SPUTTERING SPARKS...

KEEP THAT HOSE ON THEM, PROFESSOR, UNTIL WE "COOL" THEM OFF!

WHAP!

WHAP!

OW!

DARKNESS BLOTTED OUT OUR SENSES... AND WHEN THE TORCH AND I OPENED OUR EYES AGAIN, WE KNEW THAT WE'D BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR A LONG TIME...

THERE'S JUST ENOUGH AIR IN THOSE GLASS TUBES TO KEEP YOU ALIVE... AND *NOT* ENOUGH TO ALLOW YOU TO *FLAME ON*! THAT'S SO YOU CAN WATCH MY INVENTION, THE HYDROMATIC VACUUM, STEAL THE REST OF THE AIR FROM THE WORLD!

BUT *WHY*, PROFESSOR? WHAT HAS THE WORLD DONE TO *YOU*?

NOTHING! BUT LOOK WHAT IT HAS DONE TO MY DAUGHTER STELLA! SHE CAN'T PLAY OR DANCE LIKE OTHER GIRLS... BUT NOW SHE WILL BE ***QUEEN OF THE WORLD*** WHEN I RID THE EARTH OF THE CRUEL, INCONSIDERATE POPULATION!

IN CASE OF FIRE

NO, FATHER! YOU'RE NOT DOING IT FOR ME! AND I WON'T LET YOU HARM THESE MEN!

FLAME ON!

SMASH!

GET THE HOSE! THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP THEM!

NOW THERE IS *NOTHING* THAT CAN STOP THEM!

WHACK!

YOU'RE WRONG! WITHOUT AIR THEY CANNOT FLAME... SO I'M PUNCTURING THIS DOME AND LETTING *OUT* THE AIR... *AND MYSELF!*

NO, GORODOK! YOU'VE GOT THE ONLY OXYGEN MASK!

HE'S CLIMBING TO THE TOP OF THE DOME!

ME, TOO... IF I CAN BUILD A LONG ENOUGH LADDER OUT OF MY DYING FLAMES!

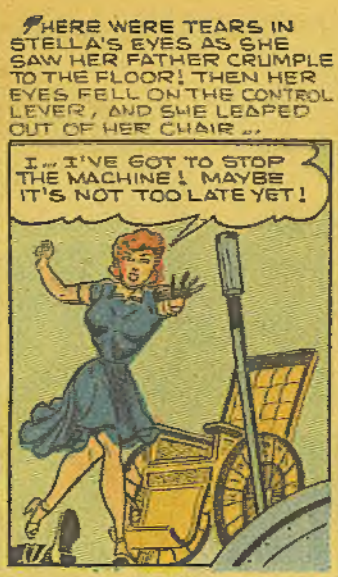
THE HUMAN TORCH SCALED THE FIERY LADDER AND CRASHED THRU THE TOP OF THE DOME JUST IN TIME TO MEET GORODOK... *FIST FIRST*!

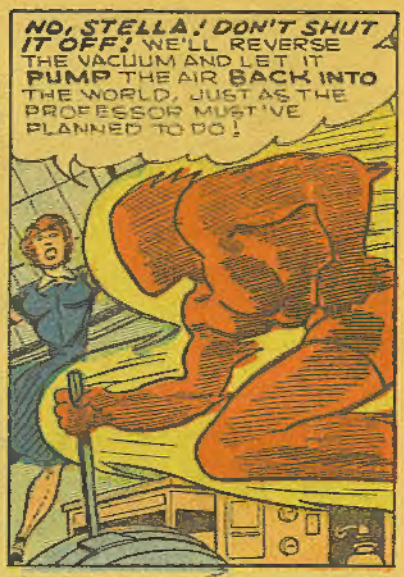
THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING, GORODOK... IS ***DOWN... AND OUT!***

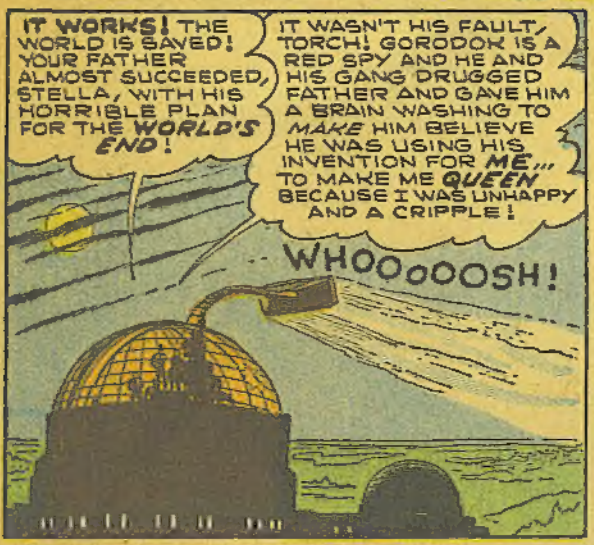
OW!

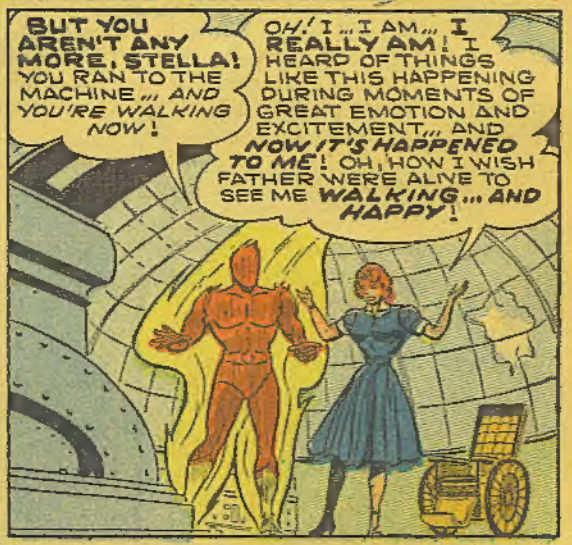
...AND GORODOK FELL BACK THRU THE HOLE IN THE GLASS DOME...

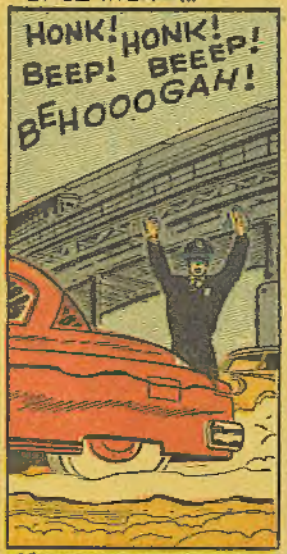
THIS IS ALL YOUR [GASP!] FAULT, PROFESSOR! IF YOU DIDN'T PULL THEM IN HERE, MY PLAN FOR WORLD POWER WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED! NOW WE SHALL ALL DIE... BUT YOU WILL GO FIRST!
BLAM!

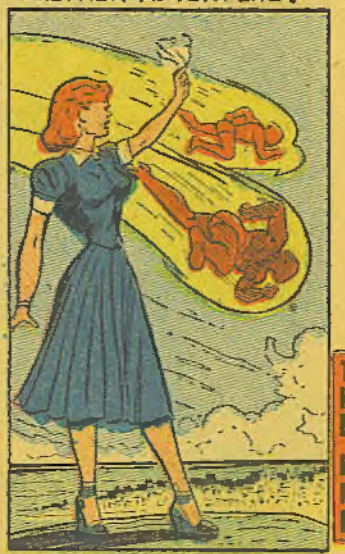

THERE WERE TEARS IN STELLA'S EYES AS SHE SAW HER FATHER CRUMPLE TO THE FLOOR! THEN HER EYES FELL ON THE CONTROL LEVER, AND SHE LEAPED OUT OF HER CHAIR...
I... I'VE GOT TO STOP THE MACHINE! MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET!


NO, STELLA! DON'T SHUT IT OFF! WE'LL REVERSE THE VACUUM AND LET IT PUMP THE AIR BACK INTO THE WORLD, JUST AS THE PROFESSOR MUST'VE PLANNED TO DO!


IT WORKS! THE WORLD IS SAVED! YOUR FATHER ALMOST SUCCEEDED, STELLA, WITH HIS HORRIBLE PLAN FOR THE WORLD'S END!
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, TORCH! GORODOK IS A RED SPY AND HE AND HIS GANG DRUGGED FATHER AND GAVE HIM A BRAIN WASHING TO MAKE HIM BELIEVE HE WAS USING HIS INVENTION FOR ME... TO MAKE ME QUEEN BECAUSE I WAS UNHAPPY AND A CRIPPLE!
WHOOOOOSH!


BUT YOU AREN'T ANY MORE, STELLA! YOU RAN TO THE MACHINE... AND YOU'RE WALKING NOW!
OH! I... I AM... I REALLY AM! I HEARD OF THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPENING DURING MOMENTS OF GREAT EMOTION AND EXCITEMENT... AND NOW IT'S HAPPENED TO ME! OH, HOW I WISH FATHER WERE ALIVE TO SEE ME WALKING... AND HAPPY!



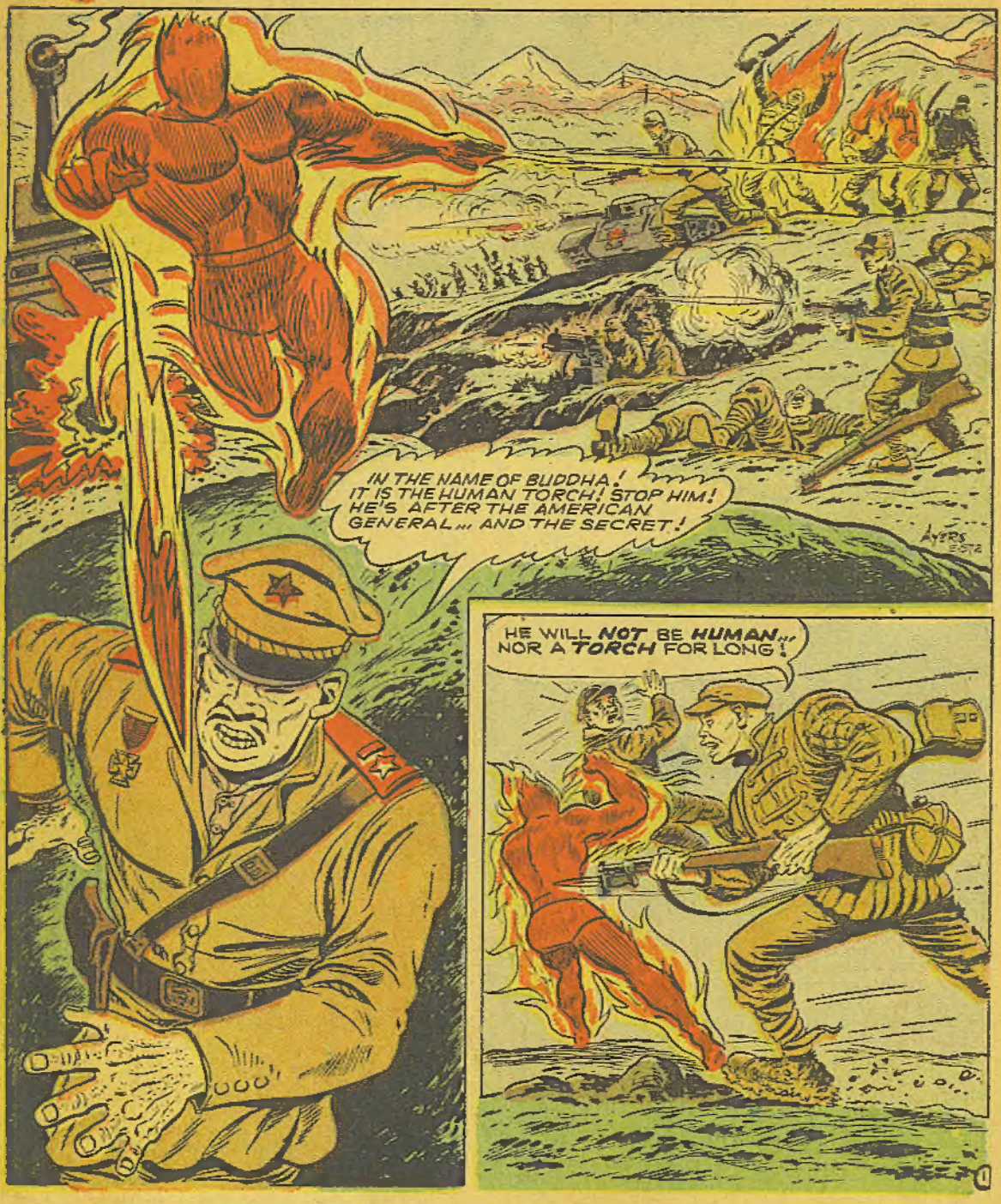


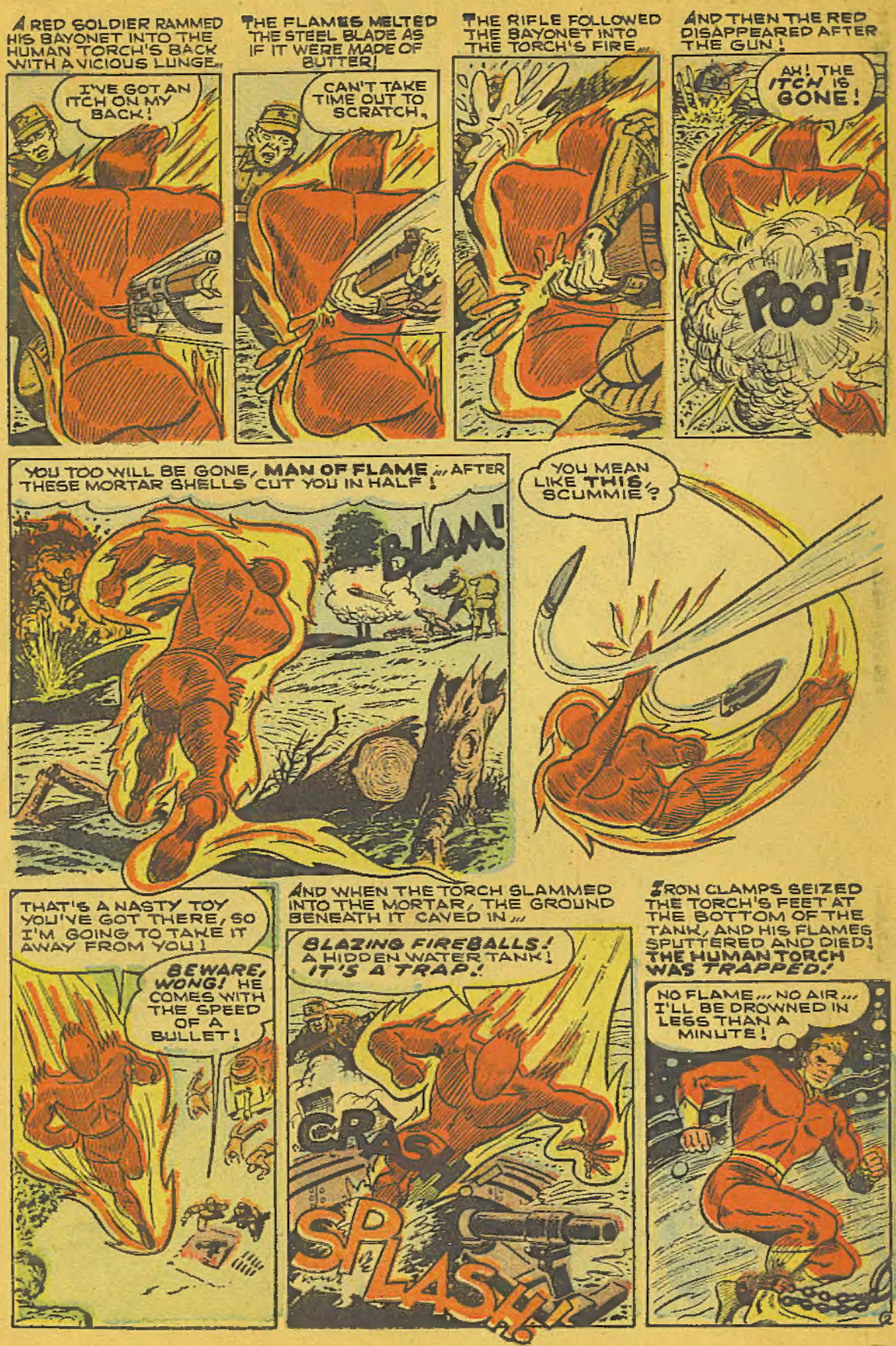
FOLLOW THE FIERY HUMAN TORCH AND TORO AS THEY TURN THEIR FLAMING POWERS ON CRIME IN THE SUB-MARINER MAGAZINE! IT'S ON YOUR NEWSSTAND NOW!

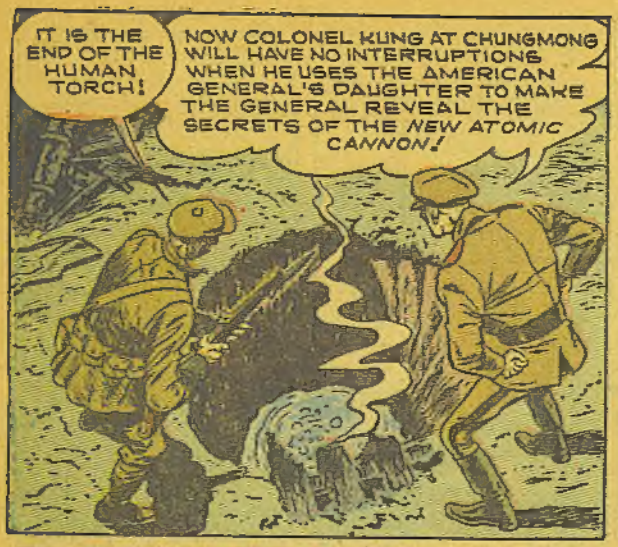
THE HUMAN TORCH

TWO AGAINST AN ARMY... THAT WAS *THE HUMAN TORCH* AND ME, HIS PAL *TORO*, WHEN THE COMMIES SNATCHED A GENERAL AND HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER... AND A SECRET WORTH EVERY DOGGIE'S LIFE...

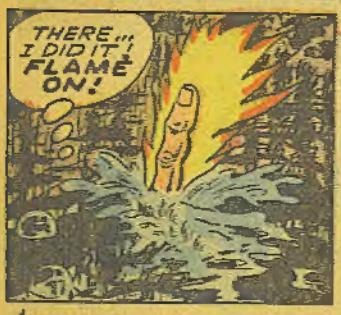
"IN KOREA!"


IN THE NAME OF BUDDHA! IT IS THE HUMAN TORCH! STOP HIM! HE'S AFTER THE AMERICAN GENERAL... AND THE SECRET!
AYERS
HE WILL *NOT* BE *HUMAN*... NOR A *TORCH* FOR LONG!


A RED SOLDIER RAMMED HIS BAYONET INTO THE HUMAN TORCH'S BACK WITH A VICIOUS LUNGE...
I'VE GOT AN ITCH ON MY BACK!
THE FLAMES MELTED THE STEEL BLADE AS IF IT WERE MADE OF BUTTER!
CAN'T TAKE TIME OUT TO SCRATCH,
THE RIFLE FOLLOWED THE BAYONET INTO THE TORCH'S FIRE...
AND THEN THE RED DISAPPEARED AFTER THE GUN!
AH! THE ITCH IS GONE!
POOF!
YOU TOO WILL BE GONE, MAN OF FLAME... AFTER THESE MORTAR SHELLS CUT YOU IN HALF!
BLAM!
YOU MEAN LIKE THIS, SCUMMIE?
THAT'S A NASTY TOY YOU'VE GOT THERE, SO I'M GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU!
BEWARE, WONG! HE COMES WITH THE SPEED OF A BULLET!
AND WHEN THE TORCH SLAMMED INTO THE MORTAR, THE GROUND BENEATH IT CAVED IN...
BLAZING FIREBALLS! A HIDDEN WATER TANK! IT'S A TRAP!
CRASH
SPLASH!
IRON CLAMPS SEIZED THE TORCH'S FEET AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TANK, AND HIS FLAMES SPUTTERED AND DIED! THE HUMAN TORCH WAS TRAPPED!
NO FLAME... NO AIR... I'LL BE DROWNED IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!


IT IS THE END OF THE HUMAN TORCH!
NOW COLONEL KUNG AT CHUNGMONG WILL HAVE NO INTERRUPTIONS WHEN HE USES THE AMERICAN GENERAL'S DAUGHTER TO MAKE THE GENERAL REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE NEW ATOMIC CANNON!

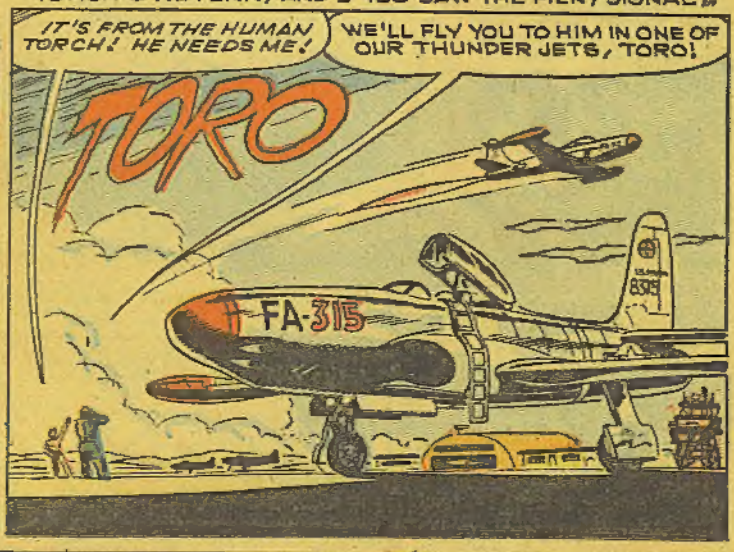
THE TORCH HAD NO FLAME OR AIR, BUT HE HAD PLENTY OF COURAGE AND FAITH! AND AS THE REDS REJOICED, THE TORCH STRETCHED HIS LEGS, HIS BODY AND HIS ARMS TOWARD THE TOP OF THE TANK...

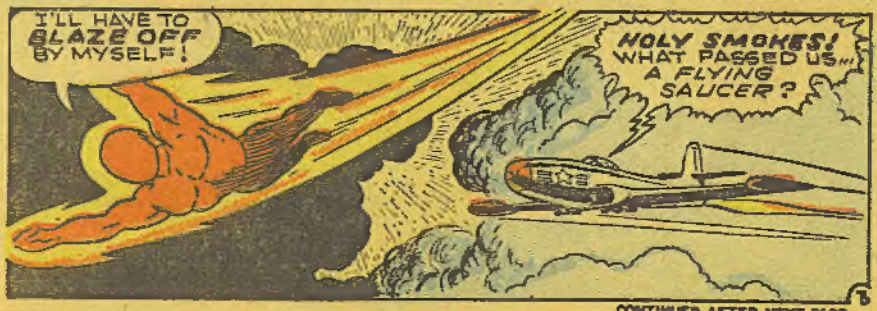


A STREAM OF LIQUID FIRE POURED OUT OF THE TORCH'S FINGER-TIP AND SHOT UP INTO THE SKY LIKE WATER OUT OF A HOSE! HE WROTE ACROSS THE NORTH KOREAN HEAVENS IN FLAMING GIANT LETTERS...

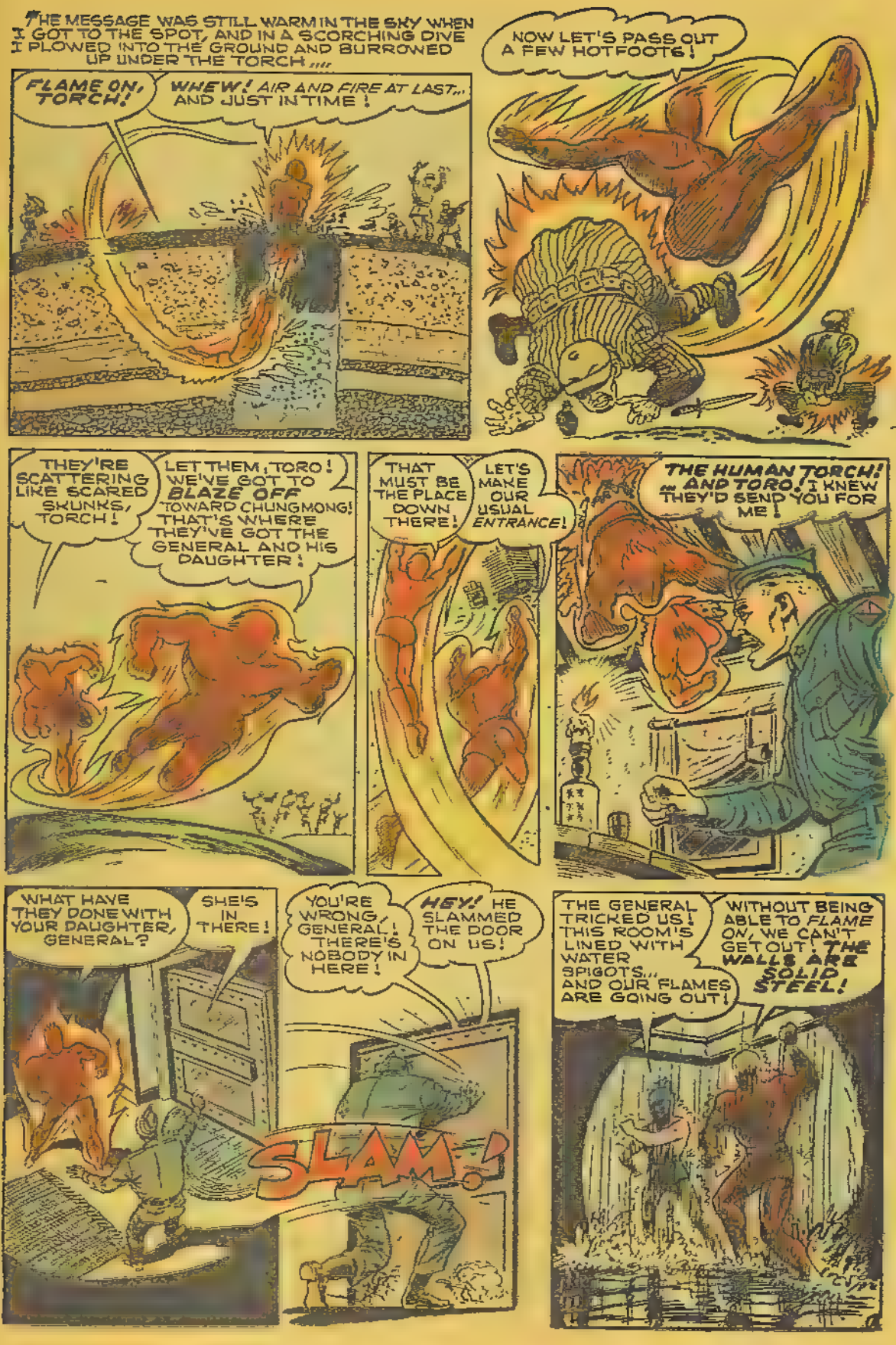
AND MILES AWAY, IN SOUTH KOREA, THE AMERICAN RADAR STATIONS PICKED UP THE BLAZING WORD ON THEIR SCOPES...

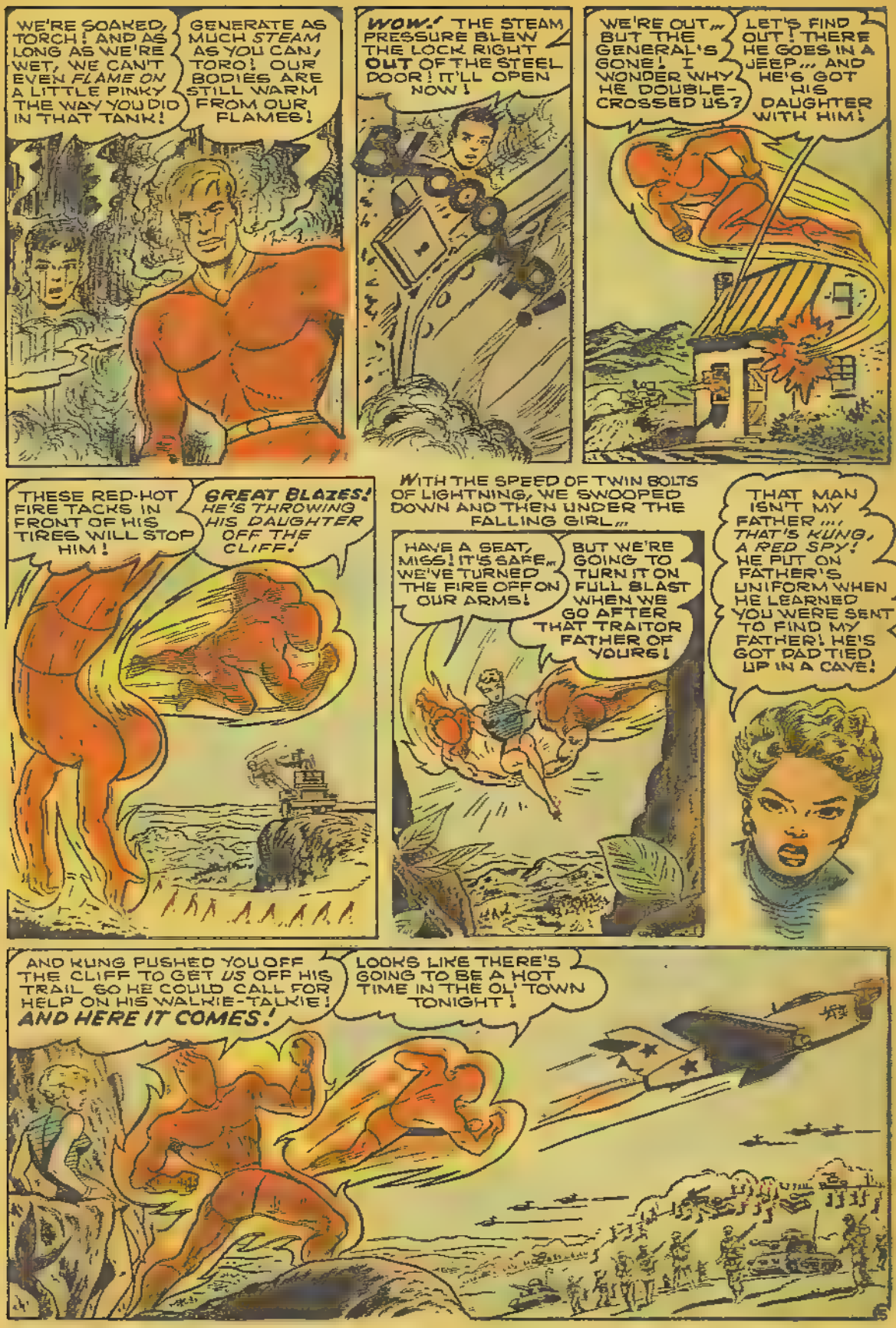
I HAD BEEN WATCHING THE SKY IN SEOUL FOR THE TORCH'S RETURN, AND I TOO SAW THE FIERY SIGNAL...



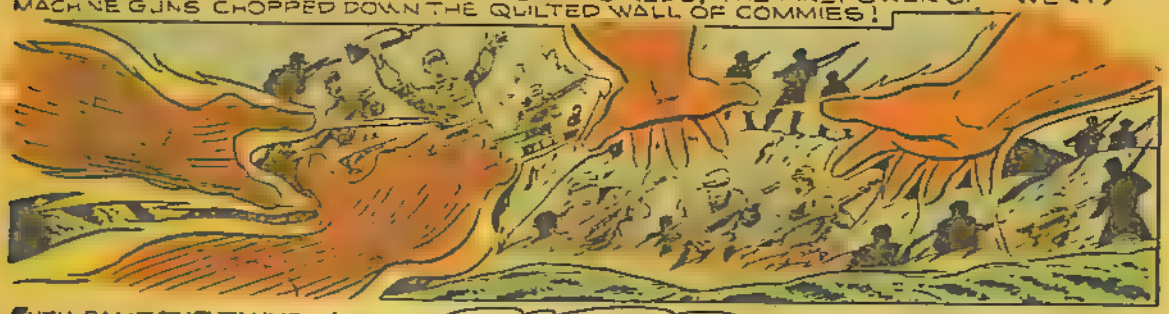


CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

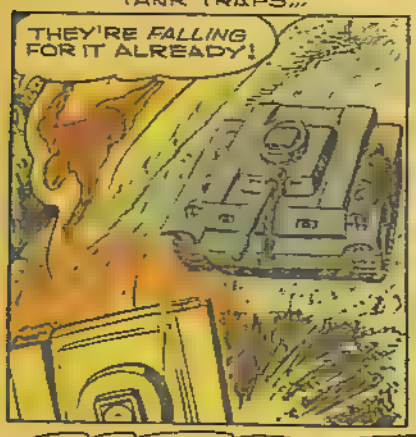

THE MESSAGE WAS STILL WARM IN THE SKY WHEN I GOT TO THE SPOT, AND IN A SCORCHING DIVE I PLOWED INTO THE GROUND AND BURROWED UP UNDER THE TORCH ....
FLAME ON, TORCH!
WHEW! AIR AND FIRE AT LAST... AND JUST IN TIME!
NOW LET'S PASS OUT A FEW HOTFOOTS!
THEY'RE SCATTERING LIKE SCARED SKUNKS, TORCH!
LET THEM, TORO! WE'VE GOT TO BLAZE OFF TOWARD CHUNGMONG! THAT'S WHERE THEY'VE GOT THE GENERAL AND HIS DAUGHTER!
THAT MUST BE THE PLACE DOWN THERE!
LET'S MAKE OUR USUAL ENTRANCE!
THE HUMAN TORCH! AND TORO! I KNEW THEY'D SEND YOU FOR ME!
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER, GENERAL?
SHE'S IN THERE!
YOU'RE WRONG, GENERAL! THERE'S NOBODY IN HERE!
HEY! HE SLAMMED THE DOOR ON US!
SLAM!
THE GENERAL TRICKED US! THIS ROOM'S LINED WITH WATER SPIGOTS... AND OUR FLAMES ARE GOING OUT!
WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO FLAME ON, WE CAN'T GET OUT! THE WALLS ARE SOLID STEEL!

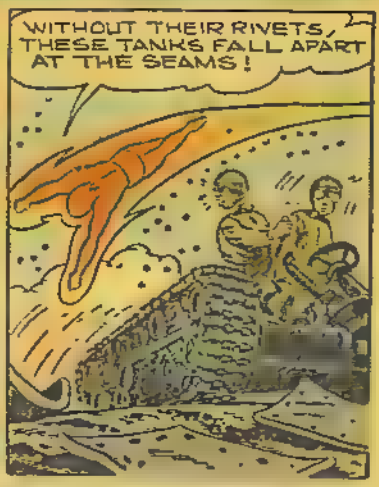

WE'RE SOAKED, TORCH! AND AS LONG AS WE'RE WET, WE CAN'T EVEN *FLAME ON* A LITTLE PINKY THE WAY YOU DID IN THAT TANK!
GENERATE AS MUCH *STEAM* AS YOU CAN, TORO! OUR BODIES ARE STILL WARM FROM OUR FLAMES!
WOW! THE STEAM PRESSURE BLEW THE LOCK RIGHT **OUT** OF THE STEEL DOOR! IT'LL OPEN NOW!
BLOOM
WE'RE OUT... BUT THE GENERAL'S GONE! I WONDER WHY HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US?
LET'S FIND OUT! THERE HE GOES IN A JEEP... AND HE'S GOT HIS DAUGHTER WITH HIM!
THESE RED-HOT FIRE TACKS IN FRONT OF HIS TIRES WILL STOP HIM!
GREAT BLAZES! *HE'S THROWING HIS DAUGHTER OFF THE CLIFF!*
WITH THE SPEED OF TWIN BOLTS OF LIGHTNING, WE SWOOPED DOWN AND THEN UNDER THE FALLING GIRL...
HAVE A SEAT, MISS! IT'S SAFE... WE'VE TURNED THE FIRE OFF ON OUR ARMS!
BUT WE'RE GOING TO TURN IT ON FULL BLAST WHEN WE GO AFTER THAT TRAITOR FATHER OF YOURS!
THAT MAN ISN'T MY FATHER...! *THAT'S KUNG, A RED SPY!* HE PUT ON FATHER'S UNIFORM WHEN HE LEARNED YOU WERE SENT TO FIND MY FATHER! HE'S GOT DAD TIED UP IN A CAVE!
AND KUNG PUSHED YOU OFF THE CLIFF TO GET *US* OFF HIS TRAIL SO HE COULD CALL FOR HELP ON HIS WALKIE-TALKIE! ***AND HERE IT COMES!***
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE A HOT TIME IN THE OL' TOWN TONIGHT!

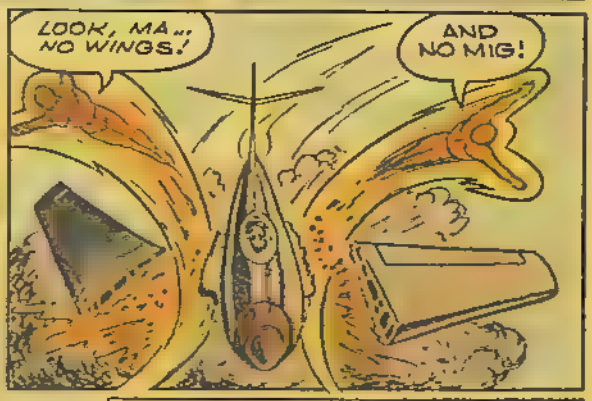
THE TORCH AND I TOOK CARE OF THE WILD BANZAI CHARGE FIRST BY HOLDING OUT OUR ARMS AND POINTING OUR FINGERS AT THE SCREAMING REDS! THE FIREPOWER OF TWENTY MACHINE GUNS CHOPPED DOWN THE QUILTED WALL OF COMMIES!

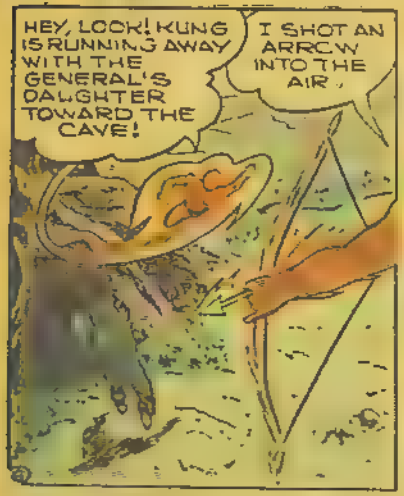


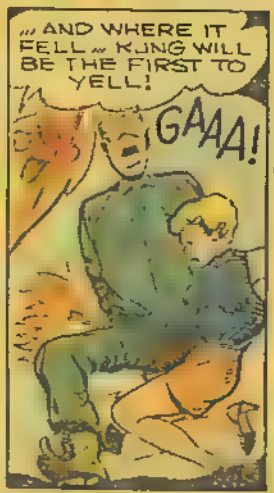
THEN CAME THE TANKS, AND WE USED A PLOW OF FIRE TO DIG TANK TRAPS...

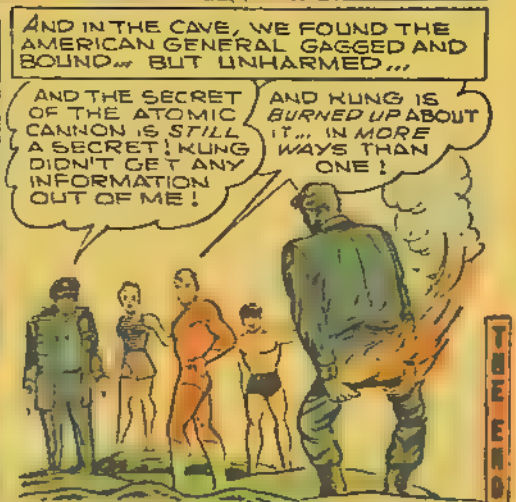






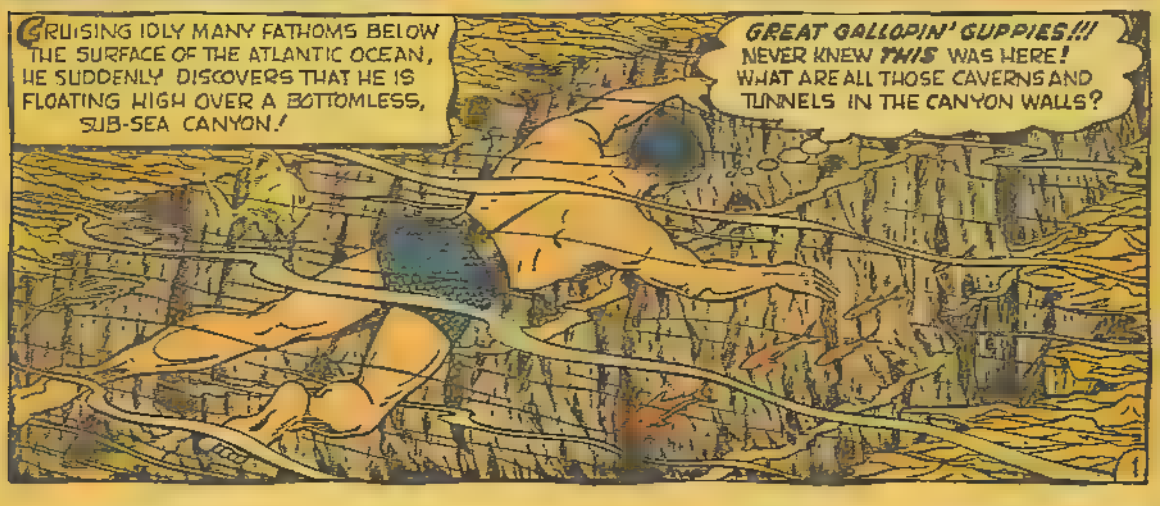


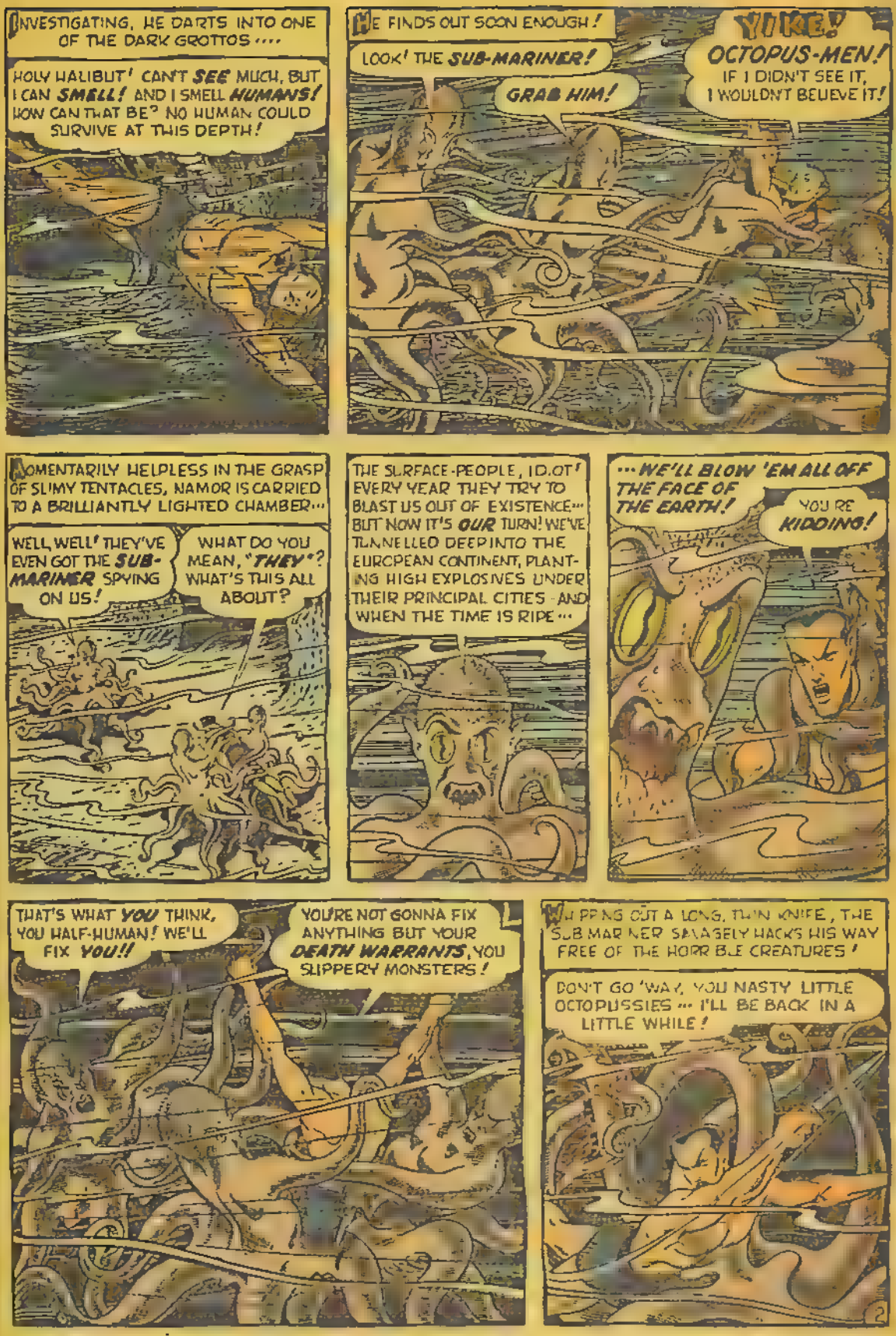



AND IN THE CAVE, WE FOUND THE AMERICAN GENERAL GAGGED AND BOUND... BUT UNHARMED...
AND THE SECRET OF THE ATOMIC CANNON IS *STILL* A SECRET! KUNG DIDN'T GET ANY INFORMATION OUT OF ME!
AND KUNG IS *BURNED UP* ABOUT IT... IN *MORE* WAYS THAN ONE!
THE END

SPIES, CRIMINALS AND POWER-CRAZED MADMEN ALL WANT TO MATCH WITS WITH ***THE HUMAN TORCH*** AND ***TORO*** IN THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF ***THE HUMAN TORCH*** MAGAZINE! DON'T MISS IT!

THE SUB-MARINER
MEETS THE OCTOPUS-MEN!
ONCE AGAIN PRINCE NAMOR, THE ORIGINAL AQUAMAN, FINDS HIMSELF FACED WITH A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE SURFACE-PEOPLE— A PROBLEM, REALLY NONE OF HIS BUSINESS, IN WHICH HE FINDS HIMSELF THE ONLY PERSON IN A POSITION TO SOLVE....
IN THE INTEREST OF HUMANITY, HE STICKS HIS NOSE IN— AND PROMPTLY GETS IT TWEAKED!


CRUISING IDLY MANY FATHOMS BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, HE SUDDENLY DISCOVERS THAT HE IS FLOATING HIGH OVER A BOTTOMLESS, SUB-SEA CANYON!
GREAT GALLOPIN' GUPPIES!!! NEVER KNEW THIS WAS HERE! WHAT ARE ALL THOSE CAVERNS AND TUNNELS IN THE CANYON WALLS?
1


INVESTIGATING, HE DARTS INTO ONE OF THE DARK GROTTOS ....
HOLY HALIBUT! CAN'T SEE MUCH, BUT I CAN SMELL! AND I SMELL HUMANS! HOW CAN THAT BE? NO HUMAN COULD SURVIVE AT THIS DEPTH!
HE FINDS OUT SOON ENOUGH!
LOOK! THE SUB-MARINER!
GRAB HIM!
YIKE! OCTOPUS-MEN! IF I DIDN'T SEE IT, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
MOMENTARILY HELPLESS IN THE GRASP OF SLIMY TENTACLES, NAMOR IS CARRIED TO A BRILLIANTLY LIGHTED CHAMBER...
WELL, WELL! THEY'VE EVEN GOT THE SUB-MARINER SPYING ON US!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THEY"? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
THE SURFACE-PEOPLE, IDIOT! EVERY YEAR THEY TRY TO BLAST US OUT OF EXISTENCE... BUT NOW IT'S OUR TURN! WE'VE TUNNELLED DEEP INTO THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, PLANTING HIGH EXPLOSIVES UNDER THEIR PRINCIPAL CITIES - AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE...
...WE'LL BLOW 'EM ALL OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, YOU HALF-HUMAN! WE'LL FIX YOU!!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIX ANYTHING BUT YOUR DEATH WARRANTS, YOU SLIPPERY MONSTERS!
WHIPPING OUT A LONG, THIN KNIFE, THE SUB-MARINER SAVAGELY HACKS HIS WAY FREE OF THE HORRIBLE CREATURES!
DON'T GO 'WAY, YOU NASTY LITTLE OCTOPUSSIES ... I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE!
2

DARTING QUICKLY TO THE SURFACE, HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE NEAREST COUNTRY ON THE COAST OF THE CONTINENT···

THEY'RE HALF-OCTOPUS AND HALF-MAN, SIR, AND THEY INTEND TO BLAST EUROPE RIGHT OFF THE MAP!

RIDICULOUS, SUB-MARINER! JUST HOW GULLIBLE DO YOU THINK WE ARE?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE VERY IDEA OF OCTOPUS-MEN IS UTTERLY FANTASTIC--AND HOW COULD THEY POSSIBLY TUNNEL HUNDREDS OF MILES INTO THE HEART OF OUR COUNTRY WITHOUT OUR KNOWING IT? TAKE YOUR FAIRY TALES SOMEWHERE ELSE···WE'RE BUSY!

FOOLS! MORONS!! NO ONE EVER BELIEVES THE SUB-MARINER UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE! WELL, I WARNED THEM! THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO ····

BUT--EVEN AS HE STEPS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ····

KHAM!

SUFFERIN' SHAD!!! IT'S BEGUN ALREADY!

AND ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IN ONE CITY---

WHOOM!

BAM!

WHAM!

HELP!

EEEAAARGH!

---AFTER ANOTHER, THE VOLCANIC HOLOCAUST BLASTS GIGANTIC BUILDINGS AND THOUSANDS OF INHABITANTS SKY-HIGH, LEAVING NOTHING BUT TERROR AND DESOLATION!

WHERE'S IT COMING FROM? WHERE'S THE ENEMY?

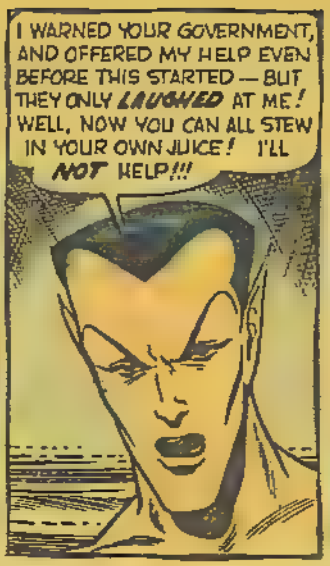
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD! DOWN ON YOUR KNEES! PRAY!!!

FROM A SAFE POSITION HIGH ON A DISTANT MOUNTAIN, NAMOR WATCHES THE DEVASTATION, LAUGHING BITTERLY···

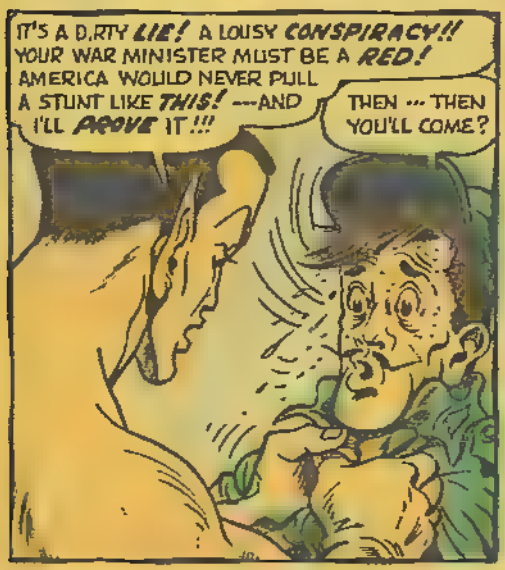
STUPID, COMPLACENT IMBECILES! THEY SCORN ME, AND ONE BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M A FOOL! WELL--- MAYBE NOW··· OH-OH! SOMEONE'S COMING ····

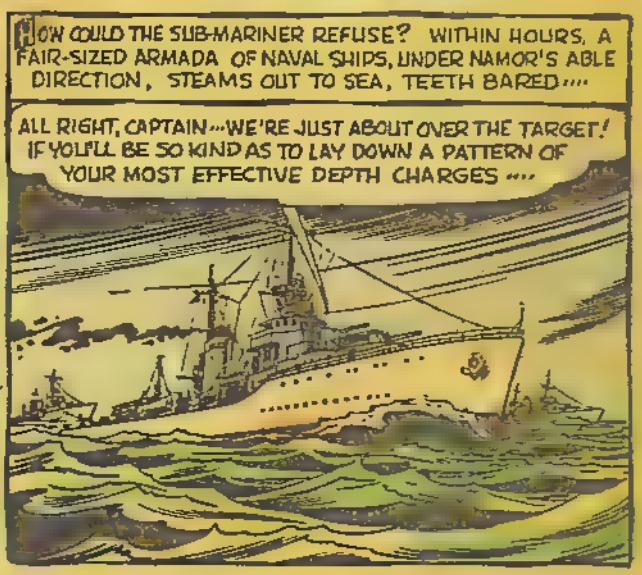
NAMOR! PRINCE NAMOR!!

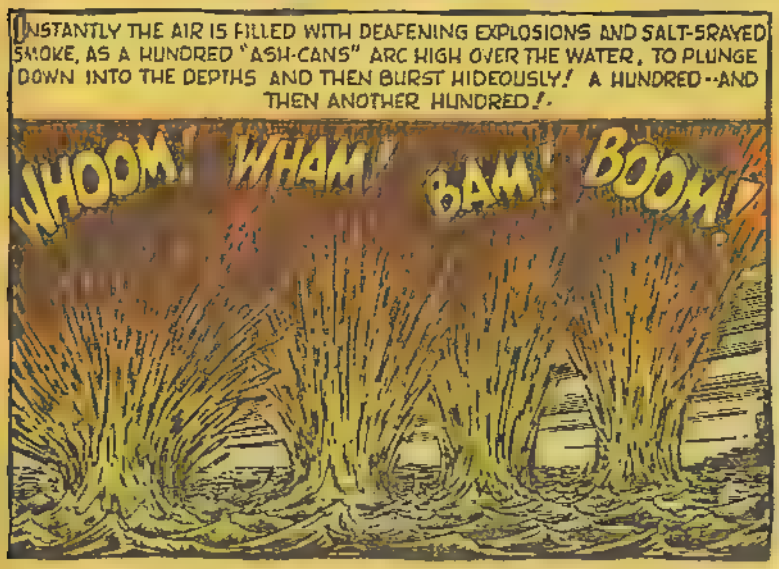
PLEASE, SIR, COME WITH ME TO THE CAPITAL AT ONCE! THE CABINET HAS MET IN EMERGENCY SESSION, AND THEY NEED YOUR HELP! THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING EVERY MINUTE, AND ONLY YOU CAN SAVE THE SURVIVORS!
BAM!

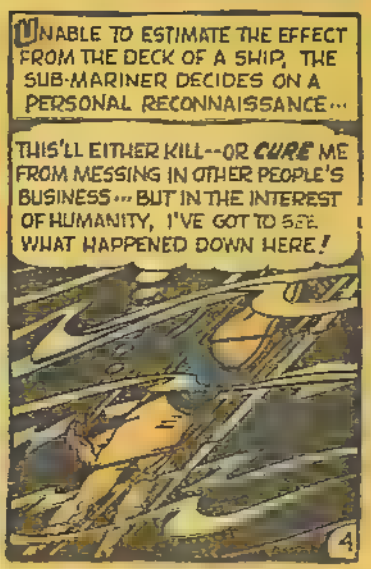

I WARNED YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND OFFERED MY HELP EVEN BEFORE THIS STARTED — BUT THEY ONLY LAUGHED AT ME! WELL, NOW YOU CAN ALL STEW IN YOUR OWN JUICE! I'LL NOT HELP!!!

YOU MUST, SIR! NO ONE BELIEVES YOUR STORY ABOUT OCTOPUS-MEN, IT'S TRUE, BUT THE MINISTER OF WAR THINKS IT'S THE AMERICANS WHO ARE ATTACKING US! ONLY AMERICA HAS SUCH POWERFUL ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES!
WHAT?!?!


IT'S A DIRTY LIE! A LOUSY CONSPIRACY!! YOUR WAR MINISTER MUST BE A RED! AMERICA WOULD NEVER PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS! —AND I'LL ABOVE IT!!!
THEN ... THEN YOU'LL COME?


HOW COULD THE SUB-MARINER REFUSE? WITHIN HOURS, A FAIR-SIZED ARMADA OF NAVAL SHIPS, UNDER NAMOR'S ABLE DIRECTION, STEAMS OUT TO SEA, TEETH BARED....
ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN...WE'RE JUST ABOUT OVER THE TARGET! IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO LAY DOWN A PATTERN OF YOUR MOST EFFECTIVE DEPTH CHARGES....


INSTANTLY THE AIR IS FILLED WITH DEAFENING EXPLOSIONS AND SALT-SPRAYED SMOKE, AS A HUNDRED "ASH-CANS" ARC HIGH OVER THE WATER, TO PLUNGE DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS AND THEN BURST HIDEOUSLY! A HUNDRED--AND THEN ANOTHER HUNDRED!
WHOOM!
WHAM!
BAM!
BOOM!


UNABLE TO ESTIMATE THE EFFECT FROM THE DECK OF A SHIP, THE SUB-MARINER DECIDES ON A PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE...
THIS'LL EITHER KILL--OR CURE ME FROM MESSING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS... BUT IN THE INTEREST OF HUMANITY, I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED DOWN HERE!

HE DIVES INTO A VERITABLE INFERNO, DESPERATELY TRYING TO DODGE ONE CONCUSSION AFTER ANOTHER IN HIS SEARCH FOR ANY OPEN TUNNELS STILL EXISTING ....

KAP! KA-A-A!

JUMPIN' JELLYFISH! OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!

BUT FIND ONE, HE DOES --- THE LAST REMAINING GROTTO! ALL THE OTHERS ARE SEALED TIGHT---ETERNAL TOMBS FOR THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS OF THE HUMAN RACE!

HEY! NOT SO FAST, YOU EIGHT-LEGGED SLITHERERS! I'VE GOT WORK FOR YOU!

YOU'RE GOING TO DO ME A FAVOR--- WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!

YOU'VE GOT TO PROVE A POINT FOR ME! IT WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD, BUT IT'LL SURE HELP MY AMERICAN FRIENDS OUT OF A JAM! COME ON, NOW...

HELPLESS IN THE SUB-MARINER'S VICIOUS GRASP, THE OCTOPUS-MEN STRUGGLE FEEBLY AS THEY ARE BORNE SWIFTLY TOWARD THE OCEAN'S SURFACE...

I'LL MAKE FOOLS OF 'EM ALL! THEY THINK I'M A DOPE! HAH!

HEY, YOU! HERE YOU ARE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK! I TOLD YOU THE AMERICANS WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE! HERE ARE JUST TWO OF THE REAL CULPRITS - OCTOPUS-MEN! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

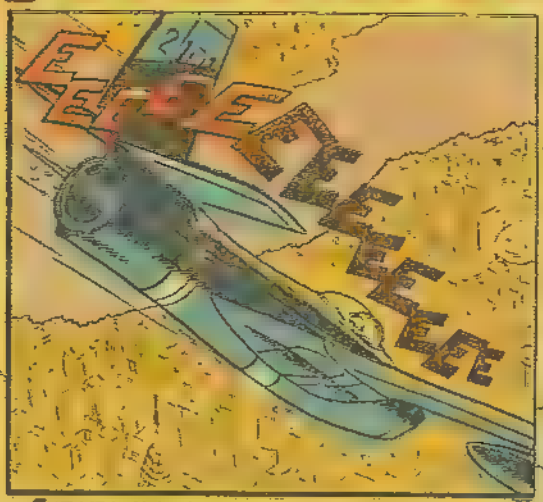
GOOD GRIEF! HE WASN'T KIDDING!

WHY DO I DO THESE THINGS? WHY DO I CONTINUE TO PERMIT YOU STUPID EARTHLINGS TO MAKE A FOIL OF ME? WELL, I'M THROUGH NOW! YOU CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD AND DO ALL YOUR OWN FIGHTING—AMONG YOURSELVES! I'M FINISHED WITH YOU! GOOD-BYE!!!

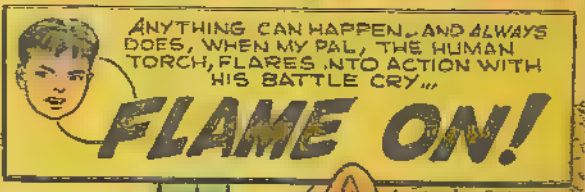
THE END

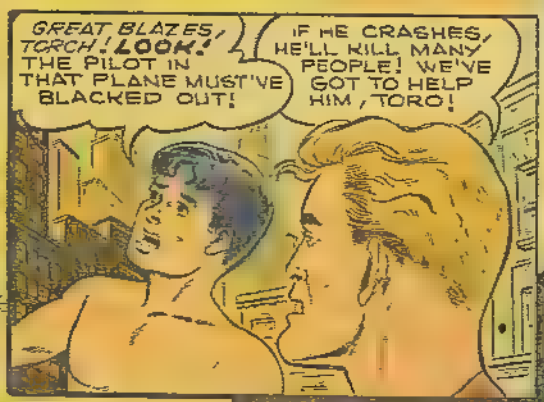
DON'T MISS THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER, IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE: SUB-MARINER COMICS!

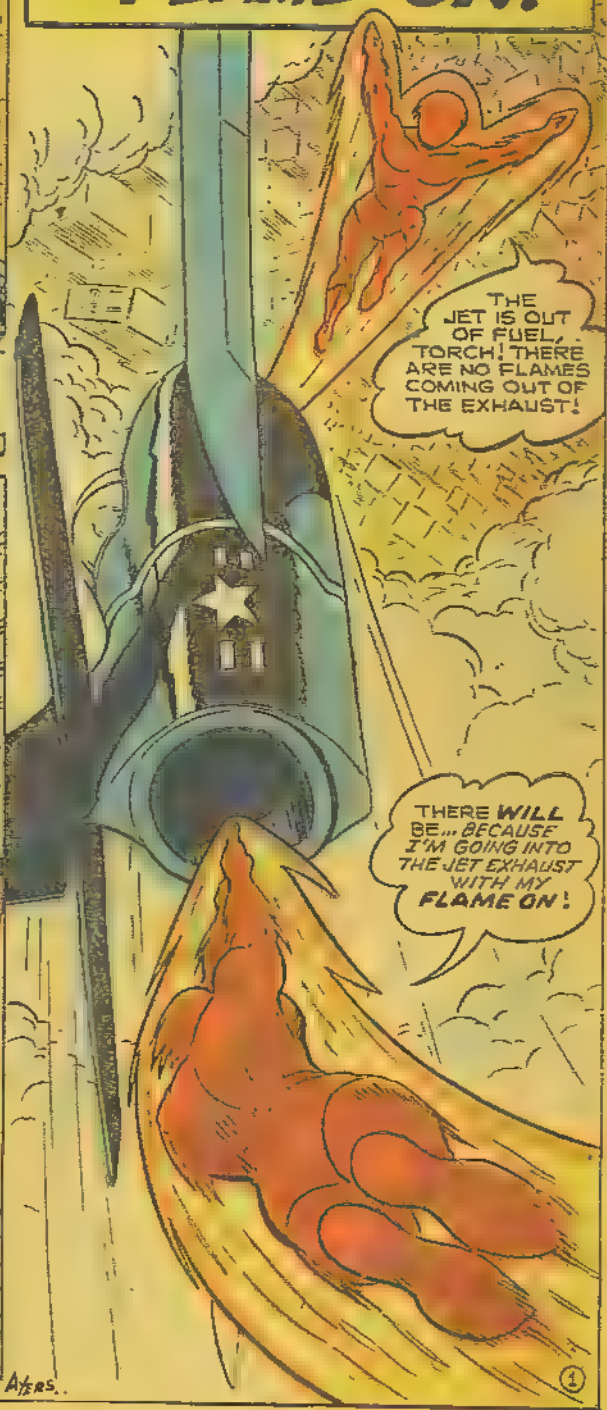
THE HUMAN TORCH



THE HEAVENS ABOVE THE TEEMING METROPOLIS *NEW CITY* EXPLODED WITH THE SHATTERING SCREAM OF AN AIR FORCE JET PLUNGING DOWNWARD AT THE SPEED OF SOUND TOWARD THE SKYSCRAPERS!




GREAT BLAZES, TORCH! LOOK! THE PILOT IN THAT PLANE MUST'VE BLACKED OUT!
IF HE CRASHES, HE'LL KILL MANY PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM, TORO!


THE JET IS OUT OF FUEL, TORCH! THERE ARE NO FLAMES COMING OUT OF THE EXHAUST!
THERE WILL BE... BECAUSE I'M GOING INTO THE JET EXHAUST WITH MY FLAME ON!

E-540

AYERS

I'M INSIDE THE EXHAUST, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE EVERY SPARK I'VE GOT TO PULL THIS JET OUT OF ITS DIVE!

THE TORCH GLOWED WITH WHITE-HOT HEAT AS HE SUMMONED EVERY FAHRENHEIT OF FIREPOWER AT HIS COMMAND, AND THE JET RESPONDED TO THE TREMENDOUS FORCE...

WOW! TORCH DID IT! AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!

I'LL FILL THE JET ENGINE WITH LIQUID FIRE FUEL AND THEN CHECK ON THE PILOT!

THE TORCH AND I FOUND A VERY SAD AND DEJECTED CAPTAIN AT THE CONTROLS OF THE JET...

YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME CRASH! IF I CAN'T MARRY THE GIRL I LOVE, I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU MARRY HER? DOESN'T SHE LOVE YOU?

SURE LOTTY LOVES ME... BUT SHE'S THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER, AND HE WON'T OKAY OUR MARRIAGE UNTIL I PROVE I'M WORTHY OF HER!

THAT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR A MAN LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN!

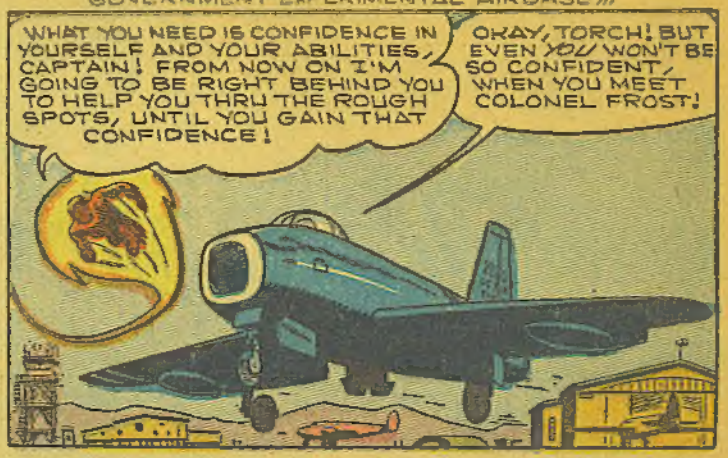
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! LOTTY'S DAD IS *THE FAMOUS* COLONEL FROST! HE'S AN OLD WAR DOG WHO'S DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE... *AND EXPECTS ME TO DO THE SAME! BUT I CAN'T!*

IF *HE* DID IT... WHY CAN'T *YOU*?

BECAUSE I... *I'M A COWARD!*

THAT'S A LOT OF NONSENSE, CAPTAIN! YOU'RE NOT A COWARD... AND I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU!
YOU WON'T NEED ME AROUND FOR A SIMPLE TASK LIKE THAT, TORCH...
I'LL BLAZE OFF! SOMEONE ELSE MAY NEED HELP! SO LONG!

A FEW MINUTES AFTER I STREAKED AWAY, CAPTAIN FRED JORY LOWERED HIS LANDING GEAR AND NOSED HIS JET DOWN TOWARD THE CONCRETE LANDING STRIP OF A GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL AIRBASE...

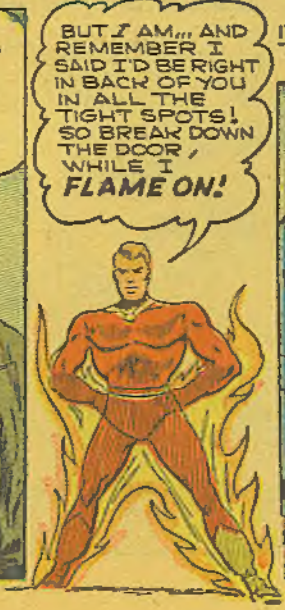

WHAT YOU NEED IS CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND YOUR ABILITIES, CAPTAIN! FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU TO HELP YOU THRU THE ROUGH SPOTS, UNTIL YOU GAIN THAT CONFIDENCE!
OKAY, TORCH! BUT EVEN YOU WON'T BE SO CONFIDENT, WHEN YOU MEET COLONEL FROST!

THIS IS HIS OFFICE, TORCH! MY KNEES ARE SHAKING ALREADY!
SH-H-H! LISTEN, CAPTAIN!
GET YOUR BLASTED HANDS OFF OF ME, YOU COMMIE BUTCHERS!
COLONEL FROST

THE TORCH AND THE CAPTAIN LISTENED, AS INSIDE OF THE OFFICE, FOREIGN AGENTS TIED COLONEL FROST TO HIS CHAIR...

YOU PUT UP A MAGNIFICENT FIGHT, COLONEL... BUT NOT EVEN YOU ARE TOUGH ENOUGH TO WIN AGAINST TEN MEN! NOR CAN YOU PREVENT US FROM GETTING WHAT WE CAME FOR!
YOU RED SCUM WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

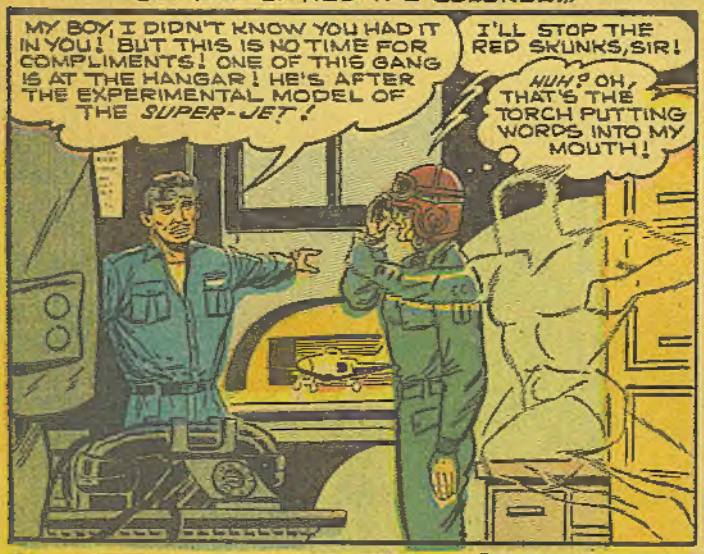
THOSE ARE ENEMY AGENTS AFTER SOME SECRET... AND THEY'VE GOT YOUR COLONEL! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, CAPTAIN! GO GET THEM!
BUT I... I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH MY FISTS!
COLONEL FROST



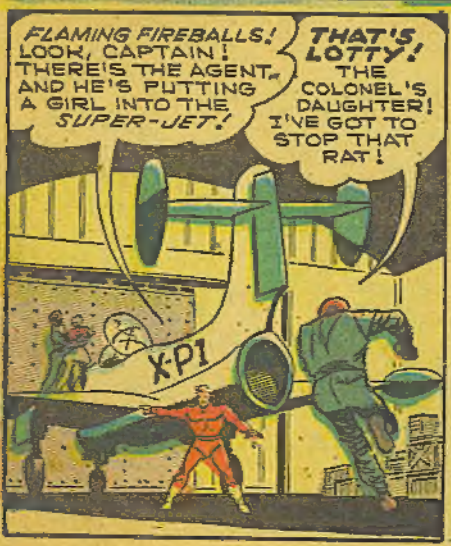
THE TORCH MOVED WITH A SPEED SO GREAT, IT MADE HIM INVISIBLE AS HE GOT BEHIND THE CAPTAIN AND PROVIDED HIM WITH CONFIDENCE... AND POWER...

AND THE CAPTAIN CONTINUED TO AMAZE THE COLONEL... AND HIMSELF... AS THE TORCH THREW THE CAPTAIN'S PUNCHES FOR HIM WITH INVISIBLE SPEED...

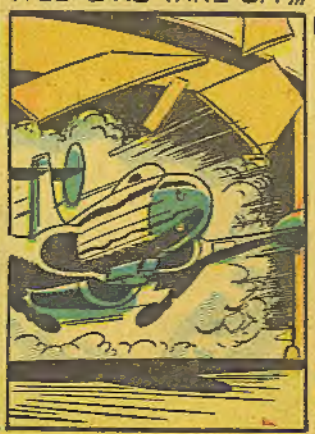
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, NOT AN ENEMY AGENT WAS LEFT ON HIS FEET... AND THE TORCH SPUN AROUND THE ROOM AT TERRIFIC SPEED TO KEEP INVISIBLE AS THE CAPTAIN UNTIED THE COLONEL...


MY BOY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU! BUT THIS IS NO TIME FOR COMPLIMENTS! ONE OF THIS GANG IS AT THE HANGAR! HE'S AFTER THE EXPERIMENTAL MODEL OF THE SUPER-JET!
I'LL STOP THE RED SKUNKS, SIR!
HUH? OH, THAT'S THE TORCH PUTTING WORDS INTO MY MOUTH!

GREAT SCOTT! HE'S RUNNING TOWARD THE HANGAR SO FAST, HE SEEMS TO BE FLYING!
GEE, TORCH! THAT WAS GREAT! BUT YOU BEAT UP THE REDS... NOT ME!

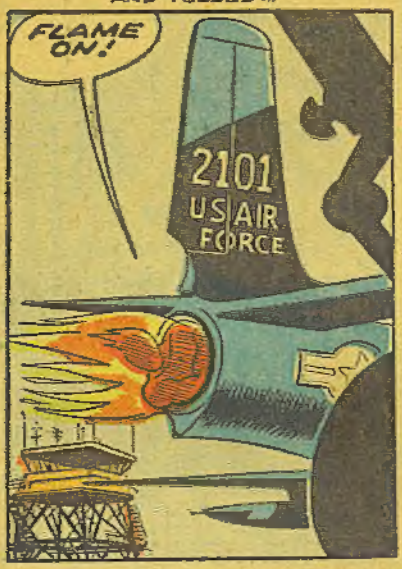

FLAMING FIREBALLS! LOOK, CAPTAIN! THERE'S THE AGENT... AND HE'S PUTTING A GIRL INTO THE SUPER-JET!
THAT'S LOTTY! THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER! I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT RAT!
X-P1

BUT BEFORE THE CAPTAIN COULD GET TO THE SUPER-JET, THE PLANE BELCHED FIRE AND RAMMED THRU THE HANGAR DOORS IN A BLAZING TAKE-OFF...



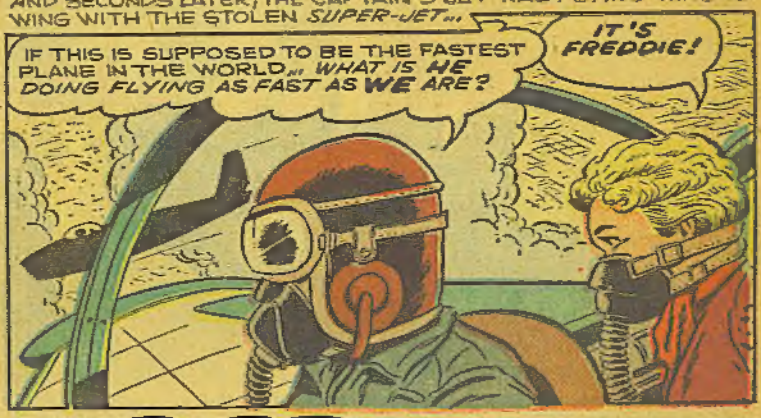
SHE'S GONE! AND IN THE FASTEST PLANE IN THE WORLD! NOTHING CAN CATCH THEM NOW!
CONFIDENCE, CAPTAIN! I'LL SUPPLY THE JET POWER FOR YOUR PLANE AGAIN! LET'S GO!

WITH THE CAPTAIN AT THE CONTROLS, THE TORCH CRAWLED INTO THE EXHAUST OF THE JET AND YELLED...



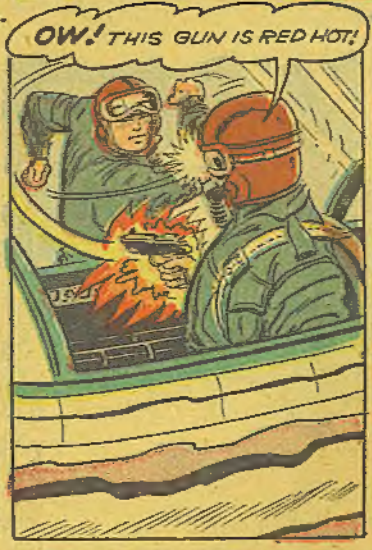
WITH A SIZZLING SWOOSH, THE JET STREAKED OFF THE GROUND LIKE A COMET!

AND SECONDS LATER, THE CAPTAIN'S JET WAS FLYING WING-TO-WING WITH THE STOLEN *SUPER-JET*...



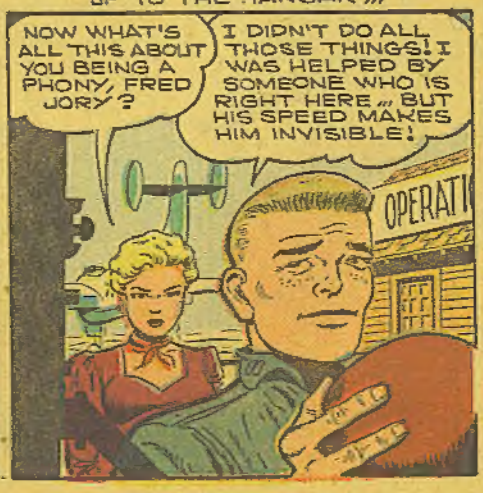
WITH THE JET SWITCHED TO AUTOMATIC PILOT, THE TORCH MOVED WITH INVISIBLE SPEED AND PULLED THE CAPTAIN OUT OF THE COCKPIT AND ONTO THE WING...

I CAN'T SEE YOU, TORCH, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE HOLDING ME WHILE I CROSS WINGS TO THE OTHER PLANE!
AND DON'T LET THAT GUN SCARE YOU! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!
XP1



OH, FREDDIE! YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, LOTTY! BUT IT'S NOT ME THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'M A PHONY... AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I LAND THE *SUPER-JET*!

THE CAPTAIN LANDED THE *SUPER-JET* AT THE TESTING GROUNDS AND TAXIED UP TO THE HANGAR...


NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOU BEING A PHONY, FRED JORY?
I DIDN'T DO ALL THOSE THINGS! I WAS HELPED BY SOMEONE WHO IS RIGHT HERE... BUT HIS SPEED MAKES HIM INVISIBLE!
OPERATI

DON'T WORRY, LOTTY! FRED WILL TAKE CARE OF THESE SCUMMIES! HE DID IT BEFORE SINGLE-HANDED! DO IT AGAIN, CAPTAIN JORY!
Y-YES, SIR!
OKAY, TORCH... LET'S CLEAN THEM UP! I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT YOU SAID YOU'D BE IN BACK OF ME AT ALL TIMES WHEN THE GOING GOT ROUGH!
I'LL MAKE THE MOTIONS, TORCH... AND YOU SUPPLY THE SOCK... JUST AS YOU DID IN THE COLONEL'S OFFICE! LIKE THIS!
TERRIFIC!
IT'S NOT CONFIDENCE I NEED, TORCH... IT'S YOU!
AMAZING!
AND AS THE CAPTAIN RAISES THE LAST RED OFF THE GROUND WITH A BONE-CRUSHING UPPERCUT, HE WAS SHOCKED TO SEE A FAMILIAR FIGURE GETTING OUT OF A JET PLANE IN THE DISTANCE...
THE HUMAN TORCH! BUT I... I THOUGHT HE WAS HERE... IN BACK OF ME!
THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS ON THE WING OF THE SUPER-JET! YOU DID ALL THIS YOURSELF... WITH CONFIDENCE!
I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY BOY! EVEN I COULDN'T DO WHAT YOU DID! YOU'LL MAKE A FINE SON-IN-LAW!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE, LOTTY!
THEN I'LL THANK HIM... WITH A KISS!
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE KISS, THE TORCH LEFT IN HIS UNUSUAL WAY...
FLAME ON!
GOLLY! DID MY KISS DO THAT TO HIM?
THE END
TORO SAYS, "THE HUMAN TORCH AND I HAVE SOMETHING BIG COOKED UP FOR YOU IN OUR ADVENTURES IN THE CAPTAIN AMERICA MAGAZINE! BE SURE TO GET IT AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!"